

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the subject U.S. National Phase application be preliminarily amended as provided in the foregoing amendment.

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23-25, 28, and 30-37 are pending in the application. The claims were amended on March 10, 2005 under PCT Article 34 (see English-language translation of annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report, as submitted herewith). No further claim amendments are being made at this time.

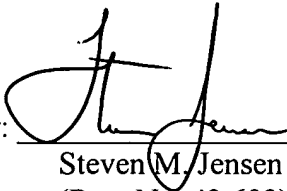
The abstract has been amended to eliminate reference numerals. No new matter is added.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Preliminary Amendment. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 17, 2005

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